

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2015

Aziza Jackson
Public Information Officer
City of Anniston
Office: (256) 231-7722
Cell: (256) 689-5479
ajackson@anniston.al.gov

Lt. Curtis McCants receives Robert Stinson Award

Lt. Curtis McCants is no stranger to the Anniston community.

With 22 years of service at the Anniston Police Department, in addition to commanding APD's Community Relations Unit, McCants still finds the time to coach and mentor Anniston's young people and is the latest recipient of the Robert Stinson Award.

McCants was one of several honorees to be recognized at Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated's Zeta Mu Sigma chapter annual scholarship ball on March 28 at the Anniston City Meeting Center.

The Robert Stinson Award is presented annually by the fraternity in recognition of individuals who have made outstanding and significant contributions to the community.

"It's very important," McCants said. "A lot of people do things for recognition and for other personal reasons. I just do it because my involvement with the youth needs to be done, especially for a lot of young males that don't have male figures in their lives."

In addition to coaching and mentoring on and off the field, McCants is central to APD's Junior Police Academy that over the summer gives students from high schools across Calhoun County some training and insight in to what police work entails.



McCants is seen here coaching one of many youth football practices.

“What’s great about the Junior Police Academy is that it gives young people some insight into what police work is all about, giving them some interest in the profession that would influence them to come back and work in their community,” McCants said.

This year’s nominees for the Robert Stinson Award were selected from the areas of “Education,” “Bigger & Better Business,” “Social Action,” “Politics,” and “Law Enforcement.”

Although McCants humbly accepts the award, he believes that his family and mentees are the real winners.

McCants’ wife of 19 years Yolanda has been credited with taking care of their family that includes two sons, Jeremy, 16, and Jalen, 11, while McCants had to spend a lot of time away from home especially while working as an investigator at APD.

“With working then leaving work and then going to a sporting practice or sporting event, it takes a lot of time away from home, and she’s really supportive of that.”

McCants said that fortunately as their sons got older they were able to be involved in those sporting activities, allowing them to spend more time together as a family.

Now his time at APD, and mentoring in the community run parallel.

“When I started at the police department in 1992 another police officer Mark Fomby got me involved with coaching and mentorship,” McCants said. “I coached right here at Cobb Elementary and from that day forth I’ve been on field there at Cobb.”

McCants coaches youth football, baseball, and basketball, but says that he always stresses the importance of education and scholarship among his athletes no matter how young they are.

“If you enjoy playing this game then you have to take care of the classroom, because if you don’t I’m taking this game away from you,” McCants said he tells his athletes. “If you think you aren’t going to do those things and come on my field to play, you’re not.”

Being self-motivated is another pearl of wisdom he often imparts on his athletes.

“I try to teach them that if you work hard here, you’ll work hard somewhere else,” McCants said.

Because of this, his athletes give their all for a specific outcome whether it be on the field or in the classroom looking to move to the next grade, graduate from high school, or go to college.

“I tell them ‘I’m not going to let you quit out here,’” McCants said.

“Young males, especially in the area I’m in, young black males, need some direction when there are no males in their life; that is a definite need in the community. It’s a need and it has always been a need in the many years I’ve been involved here.”

Being an actual part of the community he serves has a positive impact on both sides of the badge.

“When they see me they don’t always see me in my uniform; I get my hair cut at the same place they get their hair cut. I go to the gym, I go to church, I’m in the community,” McCants said.

“Having representation in the neighborhoods we serve is important. They can relate to me because they don’t just see me as a police officer, they see me as a part of the community. I’m still a police officer. I’m still going to do my job. I’m going to be fair but I’m going to do my job.”

McCants said that talking to the youth in his community about the things that are important to them also plays a significant role in giving them some sort of direction.

“It’s good to be noticed when you’re not trying to be,” McCants said. “I try to help some of these guys succeed, the way I would want somebody to help mine if I wasn’t around.”

The City of Anniston

Located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in northeast Alabama, Anniston sits as the county seat for Calhoun County and a regional hub for legal, medical, and banking services. Home to the bronze-level mountain bike ride center of Coldwater Mountain, Anniston offers a wide range of recreational options such as biking the Chief Ladiga Trail or visiting the Anniston Museum of Natural History. For more information about the City of Anniston, visit anniston.al.gov.